





INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6: **WO 99/16109** (11) International Publication Number: A1 H01L 21/00 (43) International Publication Date: 1 April 1999 (01.04.99)

PCT/BE98/00140 (21) International Application Number:

(22) International Filing Date: 24 September 1998 (24.09.98)

(30) Priority Data:

60/059,929 24 September 1997 (24.09.97) US 98870056.3 20 March 1998 (20.03.98) EP 60/079,688 27 March 1998 (27.03.98) US 60/098,038 27 August 1998 (27.08.98) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): INTERUNI-VERSITAIR MICRO-ELEKTRONICA **CENTRUM** VERENIGING ZONDER WINSTBEJAG [BE/BE]; Kapeldreef 75, B-3001 Heverlee (BE).

(72) Inventors; and

- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MERTENS, Paul [BE/BE]; Beverdijk 34, B-3150 Haacht (BE). MEURIS, Marc [BE/BE]; Domien Liekenslaan 27, B-3140 Keerbergen (BE). HEYNS, Marc [BE/BE]; Merelnest 14, B-3210 Linden (BE).
- (74) Agents: VAN MALDEREN, Joëlle et al.; Office Van Malderen, Place Reine Fabiola 6/1, B-1083 Brussels (BE).

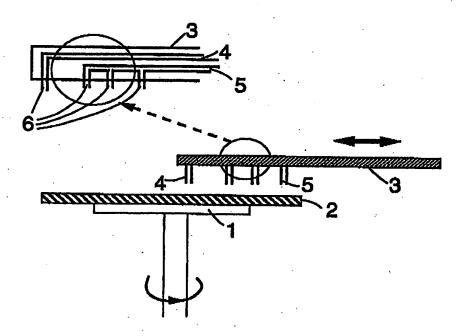
(81) Designated States: JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT,

Published

With international search report.

BEST AVAILABLE

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REMOVING A LIQUID FROM A SURFACE



(57) Abstract

A method and an apparatus for removing a liquid, i.e. a wet processing liquid, from at least one surface of at least one substrate is disclosed. A liquid is supplied on a surface of substrate. Simultaneously or thereafter the liquid or the substrate is locally heated to thereby reduce the surface tension of said liquid. By doing so, at least locally a sharply defined liquid-ambient boundary is created. According to the invention, the substrate is subjected to a rotary movement at a speed to guide said liquid-ambient boundary over the surface of the substrate thereby removing said liquid from said surface.